

# Project Factsheet for: Project Information Retrieval System (PIRS)

Date Last Updated: 2006-09-11 12:08:27.0

## Project Location Information

**Location:** NONE PROVIDED

**State(s):** IA, IL, MN, MO, WI

**Congressional District(s):** IA-1, IA-2, IA-3, IA-4, IA-5, IL-11, IL-13, IL-14, IL-15, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, IL-19, IL-2, IL-3, MN-1, MN-7, MO-6, MO-9, WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-5, WI-6

## Status

Informational only.

## Description

PIRS was developed by the Rock Island District for the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. Presently PIRS is being used to support the archiving Military Munitions Response (MMR), Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste (HTRW), Containerized HTRW (CON-HTRW), and Building Demolition, Debris Removal (BD/DR) project records under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP FUDS). These project records primarily come from 22 Corps Districts under the FUDS Information Improvement Plan (FIIP). However, the basic proposal is expandable to Corps wide project information storage and retrieval for both the Military and Civil Works Programs. The primary objective of PIRS is to improve the capability to retrieve documents. Achieving this will improve productivity by decreasing access time to get the desired documents, reduce the need for redundant hard copy storage at multiple sites, improve customer support, reduce office space and reduce administrative costs incurred complying with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Project information is available in both digital format and various hardcopy formats. Digital formats include text or graphic (CADD) type files. Either type of digital format can be electronically furnished and copied directly into a designated server. Hardcopy formats (texts, drawings, photographs, legacy documents) are first scanned into digital images using a flatbed or roller scanners. Scanning operations and resolutions are adjusted to meet various shades, colors, and original document requirements. Once documents are available digitally, the file is imported into an Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF is a compact file that has consistent viewing and printing across multiple platforms (Windows, Macintosh, and UNIX), and allows users to download the entire file for local storage. As projects progress and document changes occur, updated information is added in a similar manner.

The hardware and software of the system consists of a Windows NT server with associated storage a backup tape system, scanners and a CD writer.

Users must be connected to the Internet through a World Wide Web browser (e.g. Netscape, Internet Explorer) and have an Adobe Acrobat Reader viewer. Users will then have viewing access to all available site data without additional specialized software. Users with the appropriate CADD/GIS specialized database software are also able to download data for supplemental analysis. Current Corps HQ policy allows total access to all PIRS records only to those operating a computer within the Corps network. Those outside the Corps network (contractors, regulators, general public) can request access to publicly releasable documents through a sponsor at their local geographic Corps District to the PIRS Administrator.

The Project Information Retrieval System (PIRS) establishes file structures consistent with organization goals; scans in images, including full size drawings and textural report sizes; converts textural reports into a purely digital format; indexes the file structure for access retrieval; links all files and scanned images to a server accessible through the Internet; provides user friendly navigation / search aides to find keywords & images; provides password protection for files when needed for security and provides a management QC/ QA system for overall processing.

## Authority

SI - Special Interest -- None.

## Project Manager Information

**Name:** Christopher J. Churney, Ordnance and Explosives Engineering, CEMVR-ED-DO

**Phone:** (309)794-5465

**E-mail:** [christopher.j.churney@usace.army.mil](mailto:christopher.j.churney@usace.army.mil)